

4.2.4.7 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, DOE would continue the existing and planned missions at Pantex. Pantex material (pits) would continue to be stored in Zone 4 Magazines pursuant to DNFSB Recommendation 94-1. Any impacts to cultural or paleontological resources from these missions would be independent of the proposed action and would be addressed through separate NHPA, *American Indian Religious Freedom Act*, and *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act* regulatory compliance procedures. DOE is developing an interim Programmatic Agreement that will be ready by FY97. This Agreement will be superseded by the Cultural Resources Management Plan for Pantex, which is scheduled for implementation in 1998. Currently, cultural resources are managed through existing interim procedures according to Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA. A Native American outreach program has also been initiated.

Upgrade Alternative

Preferred Alternative: Upgrade With Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Plutonium Pits Subalternative

Modify Existing Zone 12 South Facilities for Continued Plutonium Storage

This option involves the expansion of existing Building 12-66 in Zone 12 and the use of Buildings 12-82, 12-116, and 12-117 and associated ramps. Building 12-66 is not considered NRHP-eligible based on an evaluation of World War II Era structures at Pantex (PX LRA 1994a:125). However, determinations of NRHP-eligible Cold War Era structures have not been completed, and some structures in Zone 12 may be determined eligible on that basis. The zone is developed and disturbed and probably does not contain any intact archaeological deposits, so no impacts to prehistoric or historic sites are anticipated, even on lands used for equipment laydown or construction parking. Minimal impacts to Native American or paleontological resources are expected to result from this option. Land disturbance during building modification is expected to be 0.18 ha (0.45 acres) and the land required during operation would total 0.1 ha (0.25 acres). Impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are expected to be minimal.

Upgrade Without Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Plutonium or Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Subalternative

Modify Existing Zone 12 South Facilities for Continued Plutonium Storage

The Upgrade Without RFETS Pu or LANL Pu Subalternative is similar to the Upgrade With RFETS Pu Pits Subalternative because the modified facilities in Zone 12 South would be designed with adequate capacity to store all of the RFETS Pu pits. No additional resources would be required and therefore the impacts would be the same.

Upgrade With All or Some Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Plutonium and Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Subalternative

Modify Existing Zone 12 South Facilities for Continued Plutonium Storage

This subalternative involves modification to the previously mentioned facilities. Land disturbance during building modification, construction, and operation is expected to be the same as required for the other upgrade subalternative. Impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are expected to be minimal.

Consolidation Alternative

Construct New and Modify Existing Zone 12 South Facilities

New construction and building modification would occur on previously disturbed land in Zone 12 South. A reduced-access buffer zone would exist around the facility. Buildings 12-66 and 12-82 would be modified. [Text deleted.] Although it is possible that subsurface remains exist within Pantex, the project area is disturbed and probably does not contain any intact archaeological sites. Consequently, impacts to prehistoric or historic resources are not anticipated. Additional surveys may be necessary for compliance with the NHPA. Should any resources be discovered during construction, mitigation measures would be taken in consultation with the Texas SHPO. [Text deleted.]

The DOE has begun a public outreach program to involve Native American groups in decisionmaking related to land use and cultural resources. [Text deleted.] Facility operation can have an auditory or visual impact on sacred or ceremonial sites. To date, none of the Native American tribes known to have traditional interest in Pantex lands have identified any traditional cultural resources at Pantex. Additional consultation may identify some of these resources.

Construct New Plutonium Storage Facility

This option involves consolidation through new construction on land in Zone 12 South. It would be constructed on previously disturbed land. A reduced-access buffer zone would be created around the facility. The same potential for impacts to cultural and paleontological resources from the construction and operation of the proposed facility exists as described under the previous consolidation option.

Collocation Alternative

Construct New Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium Storage Facilities

The proposed action is to construct a new facility on previously disturbed land in Zone 12 South to accommodate all Pu and HEU material within the scope of the PEIS. A buffer zone would be created around the facility. Impacts to cultural and paleontological resources resulting from this alternative would be similar to those described under the Consolidation Alternative.

Subalternative Not Including Strategic Reserve and Weapons Research and Development Materials

Under this subalternative, facility and other resource requirements will be almost the same as the No Action Alternative, the Upgrade Alternatives, the Consolidation Alternative, and the Collocation Alternative. Therefore, the impacts to cultural and paleontological resources would be equal to those previously described. [Text deleted.]

Phaseout

Under this alternative, Pantex Pu material would be moved to the consolidation or collocation sites or to disposition. No impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are expected to result from this action.

[Text deleted.]